

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate W.R. Davidson and  
Elizabeth Grooms Allen upon their selection as  
“Mr. and Mrs. Democrat”.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have contributed significantly to the Democratic party, through their time and their talents; and

WHEREAS, W.R. Davidson and Elizabeth Grooms Allen are two such remarkable Democratic leaders who have been named “Mr. and Mrs. Democrat” by the Highland Rim Democratic Club; and

WHEREAS, named for two well-known Democrats, President Woodrow Wilson and former Tennessee Governor, Thomas C. Rye, W.R. Davidson has been designated as “Mr. Democrat”; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davidson is the former doorman of the U.S. Senate, past administrative assistant to Senator Kenneth McKellar, and active participant in the Democratic election campaigns for many state and national office holders; he has served the Democratic party with the utmost in integrity; and

WHEREAS, a Lawrenceburg, Tennessee native, W.R. Davidson moved to Tullahoma at the request of General Sverdrup to assist in the location of an Air Force wind tunnel complex in Tullahoma; and

WHEREAS, “Mr. Democrat” is the former contract operator of AEDC and a former Tullahoma alderman, in which position he demonstrated his many talents; and

WHEREAS, during his sterling tenure as consultant for the city of Tullahoma, Mr. Davidson successfully obtained several federal grants for Tullahoma; and

WHEREAS, W.R. Davidson is the perfect example of a person totally committed to the highest of ideals for the public good and should be specially recognized; and

WHEREAS, another such outstanding person is Elizabeth Grooms Allen, who has been named "Mrs. Democrat"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Allen was influenced by her father during the hard times of the Depression when she saw banks close and people go broke; she watched as her father, a grocer, continued to give and lend and still prosper; and

WHEREAS, her father, Billy Grooms, told her, "It doesn't hurt to help others no matter what their economic position or race", a philosophy he described as "the Democratic Way"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Allen credits the Democratic party with minimum wage law legislation, establishment of unions, and providing free school books, she believes fervently in the high ideals of the party; and

WHEREAS, the Allen family was able to purchase their first house because of the Federal Housing Authority bill sponsored by President Roosevelt and passed by Congress; and

WHEREAS, this quintessential Democrat, who has served as a member of the Coffee County Democratic Executive Committee, the treasurer and vice president of Coffee County Democratic Women and the National Federation of Democratic Women, Tennessee Chapter, is now retired and receives Social Security benefits, for which she thanks the Democratic party; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Allen currently serves as the president of the Coffee County Democratic Women's organization, and continues to contribute her time, money and influence to help elect Democratic candidates; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her political life, "Mrs. Democrat" is most appreciative of the love and support she shares with her husband, Robert Allen, and their four children; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Allen exemplifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a true Democrat; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to honor and congratulate both W.R. Davidson and Elizabeth Grooms Allen, "Mr. and Mrs. Democrat" for their dedication to the Democratic party; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend W.R. Davidson and Elizabeth Grooms Allen, "Mr. and Mrs. Democrat", for meritorious service to the Democratic party and salute their commitment to equality for all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.